

Prelim. Amdt.
March 24, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 5005.1110

Amendments to the Specification

In the Specification:

Before paragraph [0002] please insert the heading --BACKGROUND--.

Before paragraph [0007], please insert the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

0007 Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] It is, therefore, ~~the~~ an object of the present invention to ~~devise~~ provide a 4Pi microscope having enhanced excitation and/or detection efficiency.

ym 7/30/08

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0008] ~~This objective is achieved by~~ The present invention provides a 4Pi microscope in which a reflecting means is provided that reflects the illuminating light coupled out by the optical element back into the interferometer and/or allows the detected light coupled out by the optical element and directed into the detection beam path to pass through, and another outcoupled detected light portion that is not directed into the detection beam path to be reflected back into the interferometer.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] In one ~~especially~~ preferred embodiment, the reflecting means has color-selective reflecting properties. In this embodiment, a different reflection factor, or reflectance, may be provided for light of the wavelength of the excitation light and for light of the wavelength of the detected light.

Before paragraph [0016], please insert the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.